

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

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**Report Release Date: April 11, 2012**

**Review of the Death of Timothy Long Jr.  
of Comanche County, Oklahoma**

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**General Information**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of one-year-old Timothy Long Jr. A report was made that alleged Timothy's two-year-old sibling had allegedly struck Timothy in the head with a hammer. Timothy was life-flighted to a metropolitan hospital where he was pronounced deceased on January 4, 2011. A Criminal Felony Murder charge was filed in Comanche County District Court on February 3, 2011, against Timothy's biological mother Ashley Wright.

The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); the dates and outcome of investigations and actions taken by the OKDHS; the actions taken by the district attorney; the dates and summary of judicial proceedings; and the rulings of the court, as authorized by 10A O.S. Section 1-6-105 (below).

**Authorization**

Title 10A, Section 1-6-105, B, D, and E, of the Oklahoma Statutes, states:

B. When a person responsible for a child has been charged by information or indictment with committing a crime resulting in the death or near death of the child, there shall be a presumption that the best interest of the public is served by public disclosure of certain information concerning:

1. The circumstances of the investigation of the death or near death of the child; and
2. Any other investigations concerning that child, or other children while living in the same household.

D. 1. At any time subsequent to seven (7) days after the date the person responsible for the child has been criminally charged, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall, upon request, release certain information to the public within sixty (60) days of the request as follows:

- a. a confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether a report of suspected child abuse or neglect has been made concerning the alleged victim or other children while living in the same household and whether an investigation has begun,

b. confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether previous reports of suspected child abuse or neglect have been made and the dates thereof, a summary of those previous reports, the dates and outcome of any investigations or actions taken by the Department [OKDHS] and the Commission in response to any previous report of child abuse or neglect, and the specific recommendation made to the district attorney and any subsequent action taken by the district attorney,

c. the dates of any judicial proceedings prior to the death or near death of the child,

d. recommendations submitted by the Department [OKDHS] and the Commission shall be provided in writing including recommendations made at the hearing as they relate to custody or placement of a child, and

e. the rulings of the court.

2. Specific recommendations made by the Commission described in any progress reports of a pending case submitted to the court may be disclosed by the Commission.

E. Any disclosure of information pursuant to this section shall not identify or provide an identifying description of any complainant or reporter of child abuse or neglect, and shall not identify the name of the child victim's siblings or other children living in the same household, the parent or other person responsible for the child, or any other member of the household, other than the person criminally charged.

### **Identifiers:**

Child's Name: Timothy Long Jr.  
Date of Birth: May 18, 2009  
Date of Death: January 4, 2011

Alleged Perpetrator: Ashley Wright, biological mother

Sibling 1: two-year-old sibling  
Sibling 2: born after Timothy's death

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this case until after the death of Timothy Long Jr.

### **Case History**

#### First Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (January 15, 2010)

The first report was received on January 15, 2010, in Comanche County. Reportedly, Timothy's mother Ashley Wright was alleged to have had dangerous men "hanging out" at her apartment. It was reported that five men carrying guns were seen at the apartment and a smell of marijuana was reported. It was alleged Ashley had used illegal substances in the past. Reportedly, Ashley's home door had been broken into. Allegedly Ashley stated that a man she made leave her apartment came back and kicked in the door when she would not let him in. Allegedly he also had slapped Ashley. The children were allowed to go for the weekend with a relative. There was concern for the children's safety when they were returned to the apartment.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Assessment to be initiated within five days. The OKDHS made timely contact with Ashley and her two children. Ashley denied the allegations and reported that her apartment had been broken into and an IPOD and another electrical device had been stolen. The OKDHS documented the children appeared age appropriate and had no injuries. On two unannounced visits to the home none of the reported allegations were observed. The OKDHS documented the children were safe and closed the case.

#### Second Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (January 19, 2010)

The second report was received on January 19, 2010, in Comanche County. Reportedly, Ashley left her children with a relative until recently when she took the children back to live with her in Lawton. It was also alleged the door that was allegedly fixed had not been repaired correctly and still posed a threat. There were numerous adults at the residence and a smell of marijuana was reported. It was reported that Ashley had a past history with drug use. The children were found to be dirty and there were no diapers in the home. The children were both sick and had to be taken to the hospital. The baby Timothy had a bad diaper rash and respiratory problems. Timothy's older sibling was not as severe.

The OKDHS Screened Out the report and did not accept it for investigation. The OKDHS documented this to be a duplicate report.

#### Third Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (January 27, 2010)

The third report was received on January 27, 2010, in Comanche County. Allegedly the children had been staying with a relative for the prior month and returned to the mother's care in Lawton in January. It was also alleged that Timothy's mother had been "beat up" and that the door at her residence had been kicked in. It was alleged that Timothy had been sick and was suffering from an ear infection, upper respiratory infection, and breathing difficulties due to exposure to second hand smoke. The allegations also included that Timothy's mother allowed a former gang member to stay at her house to offer protection to her. In addition, it was alleged that a witness saw Timothy's mother physically beat Timothy. It was also alleged that Timothy's mother had exposed the children to adult sexuality.

The OKDHS Screened Out the report and did not accept it for investigation. The OKDHS documented "Open Assessment assigned to worker [name] at this time. Both referrals have been made within the same month and contain similar allegations. Worker will attempt contact with the family on this date."

#### Fourth Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (January 3, 2011)

The fourth report was received on January 3, 2011, in Comanche County. Reportedly, one-year-old Timothy Long Jr. was life-flighted to a metropolitan hospital with a skull fracture. Timothy had bruises on his head, face, ears, arms, legs, and butt. The injuries were not consistent with the story provided, that Timothy's two-year-old sibling had hit him in the head with a hammer. It was also alleged that on November 23, 2010, Timothy had sustained head injuries. It was also reported Ashley was currently pregnant by her boyfriend.

The OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority I Investigation. The OKDHS made a finding of Substantiated-Court-Intervention-Recommended. A criminal investigation

was pending regarding the death of Timothy Long Jr. An Addendum would be submitted regarding the death.

Fifth Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (January 5, 2011)

The fifth report was received on January 5, 2011, in Oklahoma County (55I). Reportedly, one-year-old Timothy Long Jr. died from a blow to his head from a hammer while at his mother Ashley's residence. Ashley was alleged to have left and was shopping when the incident occurred. She allegedly left the children with her boyfriend who was involved but was not arrested. The boyfriend reported the two-year-old sibling hit one-year-old Timothy Long Jr. in the head with the hammer.

The OKDHS Screened Out the report documenting:

340:75-3-7 There is is (sic) an open referral [number] which is being jointly worked by the OK county care center and Comanche county which addresses the situation. This referral [number] has additional information which the workers should be aware but will be notified of this referral. See file cabinet for notification of staff of screenout. [name], ANHL sup.

Emergency Custody Hearing (January 5, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

Timothy Long Jr. was taken to a metropolitan hospital for possible child abuse injuries. Timothy passed away on January 4, 2011, from injuries he received. His sibling was placed into Emergency Custody on January 5, 2011, by the Court.

Deprived Initial Appearance Hearing (January 14, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

Timothy's parents were present and were advised by the Court to make an application for a court appointed attorney. The mater was re-set for hearing on February 10, 2011.

Felony Charges Filed (February 3, 2011) (Comanche County District Attorney)

Ashley Wright was charged on February 3, 2011, in Comanche County District Court with Criminal Felony Murder by the Comanche County District Attorney.

Sixth Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (March 7, 2011)

The sixth report was received on March 7, 2011, in Oklahoma County (55I). Reportedly, a call was made stating twenty-one-month-old Timothy Long Jr. died on January 4, 2011. The mother Ashley Wright, Timothy Long Jr., his sibling, and Ashley's boyfriend all were reported to be in the home.

The OKDHS Screened Out the report and did not accept it for investigation.

Report of Autopsy (March 9, 2011)

On March 9, 2011, the State Medical Examiner's office made a finding of Probable Cause of Death to be Head and Abdominal Trauma, due to Blunt Force. The manner of death was classified as Homicide. The report by the Medical Examiner's office in part stated:

Decedent is a 20 month old black male who was admitted on January 3, 2011 after being brought by Medi-flight from Lawton, Oklahoma. It was stated that a 16 year old boyfriend was at home with two children, decedent and a two-year-old female sibling. During hospitalization, the

decedent was diagnosed with subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages, retinal hemorrhages, and detached retinae, and left occipital skull fracture. The following day, January 4th at 22:00 hours, the decedent was pronounced dead.

Complete autopsy shows two patterned contusions over the forehead, along with massive subscapular contusions, and with galeal hemorrhages over the occipital parietal region, along with multiple subscapular contusions, and with vertical linear fracture of occipital bone with regional epidural hematoma and a thin layer of subdural hemorrhages with diffuse edema. In addition, there is a contusive laceration of the mesentery at the pedicle with contusion of the left hemisphere of the diaphragm along with hemoperitoneum. There are also contusions of the legs, including buttocks on the right and left, and the right cheek.

It is felt that the cause is regarded to be head and abdominal trauma, blunt force. The manner of death is ruled to be a homicide.

#### Adjudicatory Hearing (March 22, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

An adjudication hearing was held and Timothy's sibling was adjudicated deprived as to the allegations listed in the deprived petition.

#### Dispositional Hearing (May 2, 2011)

The Court ordered the treatment plan for both parents subject to the mother's criminal trial. No visitation with the mother was ordered.

#### OKDHS Addendum to the Report to the District Attorney regarding the fourth report of abuse/neglect (July 6, 2011)

An Addendum to the District Attorney was received on July 6, 2011, in Comanche County. The OKDHS made a finding of Substantiated-Court-Intervention-Recommended as to Ashley Wright in the physical abuse of Timothy Long Jr.'s death as a homicide stating the cause of death was from blunt force trauma to the head and abdomen. Ms. Wright disclosed to the police she used excessive force and admitted partial responsibility of Timothy Long Jr.'s injuries. The OKDHS documented she failed to obtain medical treatment in a reasonable time. Ashley Wright's explanation of her whereabouts was inconsistent. Ashley Wright was awaiting trial for Felony Murder. The OKDHS recommended the abuse to Timothy Long Jr. be considered to be Heinous and Shocking.

#### Seventh Report to the OKDHS Alleging Abuse/Neglect (July 19, 2011)

The seventh report was received on July 19, 2011, in Comanche County. Reportedly, Ashley Wright gave birth to Sibling 2 on July 19, 2011. Ashley was accompanied by a twenty-four hour guard while she was in the hospital. Ashley remained incarcerated on pending murder charges.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation. The OKDHS made timely contact with Ashley and the baby Sibling 2 at the hospital. The father to sibling 2 was listed as unknown. The OKDHS made a finding of Substantiated-Court-Intervention-Recommended as to allegations of Threat of Harm due to Ashley's pending murder charges.

Show Cause Hearing (July 20, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

A Show Cause hearing was held on July 20, 2011. The Court heard evidence to support Sibling 2 remaining in OKDHS temporary custody.

Dispositional Hearing (September 19, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

A Dispositional hearing was held on September 19, 2011. The Court made a finding as to Sibling 2 being Adjudicated Deprived and Reasonable Efforts to reunite were not required.

Permanency Hearing (October 19, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

The Court found the neglect was Heinous and Shocking. The Court stated that Reasonable Efforts to reunite sibling 2 and parent were not required for either parent and adoption was the permanency plan.

Permanency Hearing (November 2, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

A finding of reasonable efforts was not required as to both Timothy Long Jr. and Sibling 1's parents.

Permanency Hearing (November 22, 2011) (Comanche County Court)

A finding of reasonable efforts was not required as to both Sibling 2's parents.